

# FEMA AT A GLANCE

## Mission

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an independent agency reporting to the President, is charged with planning for, mitigating against, responding to, and recovering from natural and manmade disasters. FEMA was established through consolidation into one agency of the emergency management functions formerly administered by five different federal agencies. Since its founding in 1979, FEMA's mission has been clear: *to reduce loss of life and property and protect our nation's critical infrastructure from all types of hazards, through a comprehensive, risk-based emergency management program of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.*



Seattle, WA, March 4, 2001  
The wall supporting this fire escape has crumbled following the Washington earthquake.

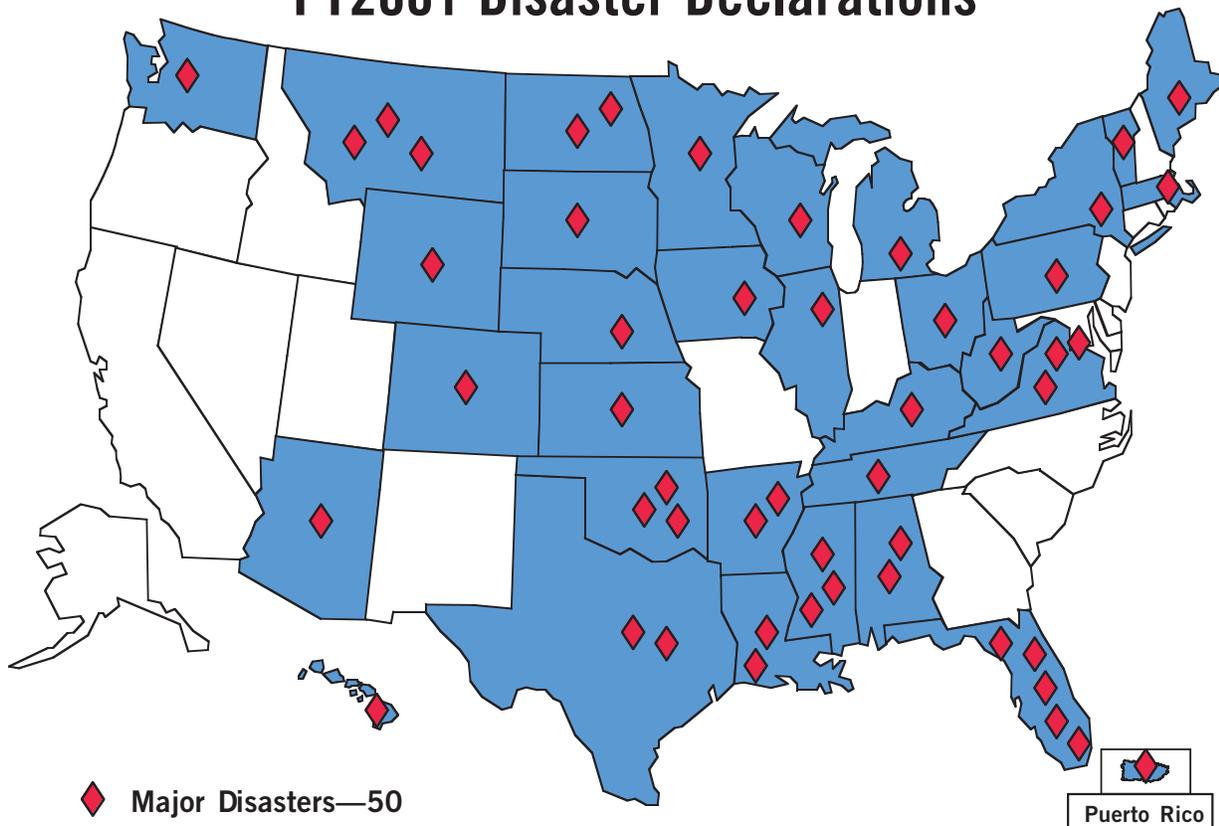
FEMA NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN GALVIN

FY 2001 had its share of natural destruction resulting in 50 incidents being declared by the President to be major disasters. One of these, the Washington State earthquake that registered 6.8 on the Richter scale proved the benefits of mitigation and smart building codes in lessening risk and damages.

In addition to these major disasters, 36 requests for Fire Suppression Assistance declarations were approved to provide supplemental assistance to states to suppress wildland fires. These fires threatened such destruction to lives and improved property as would constitute a major disaster.

The U.S. Fire Administration states that all fire-related incidents annually

## FY2001 Disaster Declarations

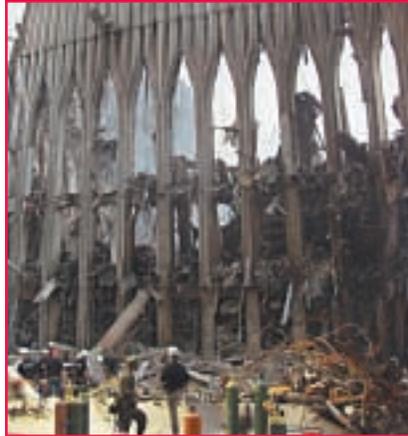


result in more loss of life than other, more slow-moving and predictable threats. Ironically, most of these fire incidents are avoidable and are the result of human negligence.

But nothing in FEMA's history equaled the September 11, 2001, acts of terrorism in New York City (NYC), Arlington, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The world will truly never forget the horror of these obscene events or the courage of those who responded to them. Local fire companies were supported by firefighters from surrounding states. Twenty-six FEMA sponsored Urban Search and Rescue Teams from across the country rushed to the sites to aid in the recovery of victims. Emergency medical teams, law enforcement officers, and the resources of the FEMA-coordinated Federal Response Partners supported efforts to manage the chaos. More than three hundred first responders lost their lives with more than 3,000 victims of these related events.

These terrorists' acts have changed the way that FEMA and the rest of government does its business. While much of the training that goes into natural disaster management is transferable to responding to terrorist activities, all governments are devoting resources to increasing their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to unthinkable acts of terrorism. FEMA's Office of National Preparedness will support the Homeland Security Office in its efforts to build a secure nation. State, tribal, and local governments and first responders will be supported by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and Emergency Management Institute's on-line and resident terrorism response courses, research, and information.

During FY 2001, FEMA also began a review of its FY 2000 strategic plan, and expects within FY 2002 to refocus FEMA's efforts to meet the President's management objectives and mission for FY 2003 and beyond. This will result in a review and possible revision of the FY 2003 Annual Performance Plan. Revisions will be posted upon completion on FEMA's Web site: [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).



New York, NY, September 21, 2001  
The World Trade Center Twin Towers were completely destroyed by the terrorist attacks on September 11. The clean up operation is expected to take months.  
FEMA NEWS PHOTO BY MICHAEL RIEGER



New York, NY, September 13, 2001  
Urban Search and Rescue teams continue the search for survivors amidst the wreckage at the World Trade Center.  
FEMA NEWS PHOTO BY ANDREA BOOHER

## Who We Report To

In addition to the President, the Agency reports to a number of committees and subcommittees throughout Congress. The main disaster work of the Agency comes under the authority of the Transportation Committee in the House, and the Environment and Public Works Committee in the Senate. The Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) authority is through the House and Senate Banking Committees. The USFA comes under the jurisdiction of the House Science Committee, and Senate Commerce Committee. Interest in FEMA matters also comes from the House Government Reform Committee. Some of the most diligent and consistent oversight of all FEMA programs comes annually from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

## How We Are Organized

FEMA's organizational structure mirrors the functions that take place in the life cycle of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. FEMA also contains the USFA, which supports the nation's fire service, and the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration that provides

flood insurance access to property owners nationwide.

During FY 2001 Director Joe M. Allbaugh began an agency-wide reorganization to bring together programs that shared complementary missions. This effort is expected to produce more efficient and effective delivery of FEMA services. It also supports the Administration's initiative to place more employee effort in service delivery and reduce management levels.

## The People of FEMA

FEMA has more than 2,900 employees working at FEMA headquarters in Washington, DC, at regional and area offices across the country, at the Mount Weather Emergency Assistance Center in Virginia, and at the National



Emergency Training Center in Maryland. In a catastrophic disaster, as many as 4,000 temporary and reserve employees, other federal agency personnel, and volunteers may join the response and recovery team.

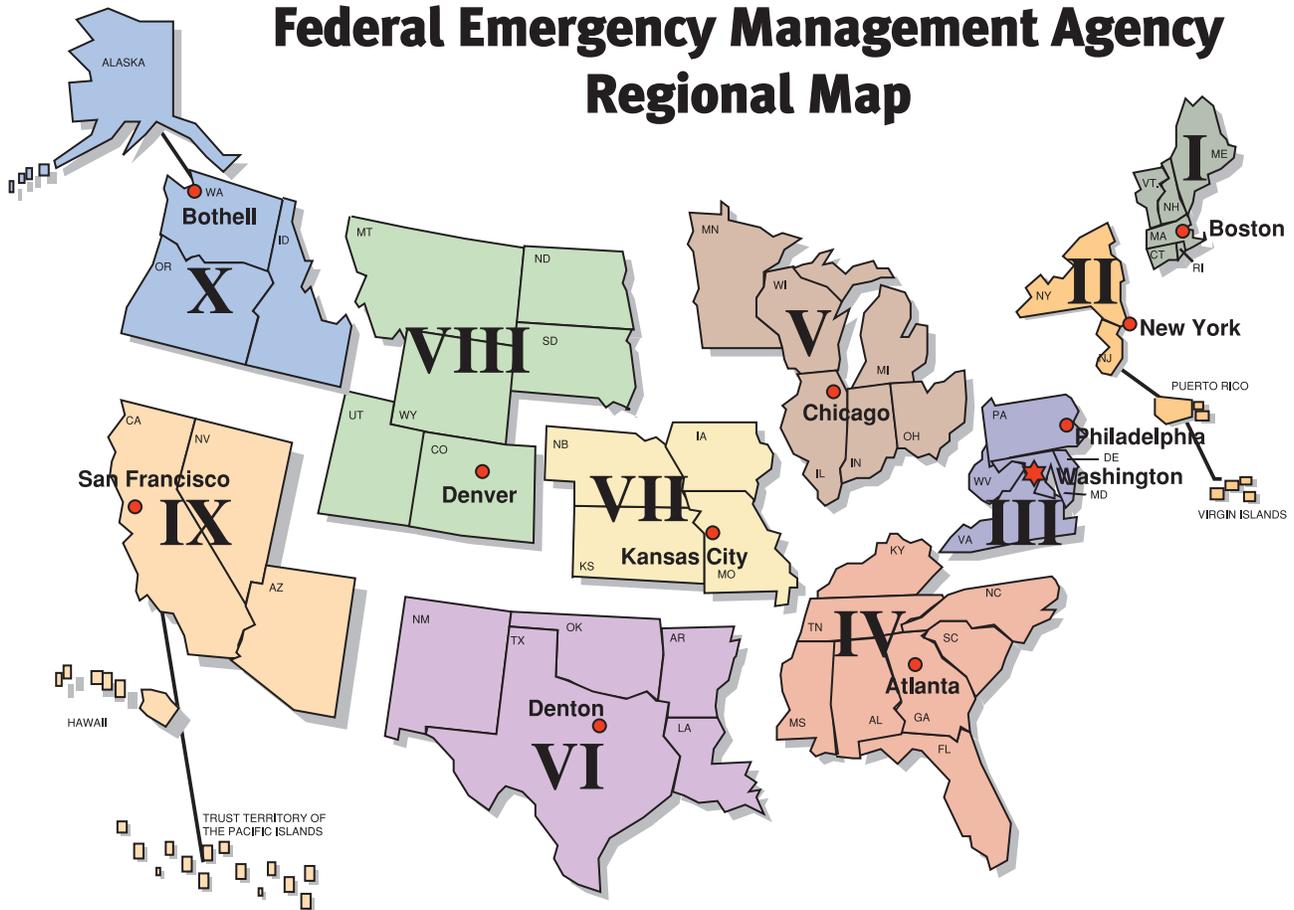
## Resources to Accomplish the Mission

FEMA's appropriations support many activities that are vital either to our national security or to the nation's ability to cope with various disasters or emergencies. FEMA is committed to demonstrating compassion for disaster

victims and, at the same time, helping them to stabilize their homes and communities. In FY 2001, FEMA continued to support programs that integrated an all-hazards approach to developing capabilities at all levels of government and in the private sector. Our appropriations allow the Agency to continue to provide flexibility for states to target grant funds to meet their specific emergency management priorities, and to improve and maintain state and local capabilities and programs.

FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund includes an annual appropriation of \$297 million. During 2001 nearly \$2.4 billion

# Federal Emergency Management Agency Regional Map



in emergency contingency funds were also released by the President for disaster response and recovery. These funds were used to respond to the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon and were used for activities associated with efficient and effective disaster response and recovery actions.

FEMA's appropriation of approximately \$369 million for Emergency Management Planning and Assistance provides resources for the following activities:

- ◆ Developing and maintaining an integrated operational capability to respond to and recover from the consequences of a disaster. This is accomplished through partnerships with other federal agencies, state and local governments, volunteer organizations, and the private sector.
- ◆ Providing policy guidance, technical assistance, training, and exercise support required to establish or enhance the emergency management capabilities of federal, state, and local governments;
- ◆ Enhancing the nation's fire prevention and arson control capabilities, supporting fire and emergency medical service personnel through research and

information dissemination, and providing training programs through the National Fire Academy;

- ◆ Supporting urban, suburban, and rural fire departments across the country through grants for training, equipment, vehicles, and fire prevention programs;
- ◆ Supporting Agency logistic, security, and health and safety requirements;
- ◆ Providing information technology resources such as, automated data processing, telecommunications, and information services and systems necessary to accomplish the Agency's mission;
- ◆ Developing, coordinating, and implementing policies, plans, and programs to mitigate the long-term risk to life and property from hazards such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and dam failures; and
- ◆ Supporting FEMA's national security program, public information program, and financial management system.

FEMA's salaries and expenses appropriation of approximately \$214 million encompasses the salaries and related expenses required to accomplish the Agency mission, vision, and goals.